

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 14

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES SHIVELY (Sponsor), FALLERT, QUINN, AULL, LOEHNER,  
REDMON, THOMSON, ASBURY AND KORMAN (Co-sponsors).

5344L.011

2       **WHEREAS**, on October 27, 2011, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
3 approved a reform proposal for the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier  
4 compensation regime; and

5       **WHEREAS**, the Universal Service Fund is the fund carriers pay into to subsidize  
6 communications services to rural and hard-to-reach areas. Intercarrier compensation are the  
7 payments among carriers to originate, transport, and terminate telecommunications traffic,  
8 within a framework of federal and state regulations; and

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10       **WHEREAS**, since the USF subsidy payments made by carriers are passed along to  
11 consumers, the FCC presented the reforms as a consumer-focused way of giving consumers  
12 the maximum benefit by transitioning to broadband; and

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14       **WHEREAS**, the result of the FCC's vote and reforms would be migrating the USF to  
15 broadband, phasing out legacy phone support, attempting to reduce duplicative payments,  
16 fraud and abuse, and reforming intercarrier compensation; and

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18       **WHEREAS**, organizations representing rural telephone companies have filed a  
19 petition with the FCC for reconsideration and clarification on various aspects of the USF  
20 reform order to ensure continued broadband investment, encourage economic development,  
21 and secure jobs in rural areas; and

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23       **WHEREAS**, without modifications to the proposed reforms, the negative impact on  
24 rural broadband deployment and rural economics will be significant; and

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26       **WHEREAS**, many of these proposed reforms will pre-empt the current regulations of  
27 the Missouri Public Service Commission which determine fees for long-distance calls; and

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29           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the members of the House of  
30 Representatives of the Ninety-sixth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
31 concurring therein, hereby:

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33           (1) Oppose the proposed reforms to the Universal Service Fund and intercarrier  
34 compensation approved by the Federal Communications Commission on October 27, 2011,  
35 as detrimental to the rural broadband deployment and rural economies; and

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37           (2) Oppose the federal preemption of Missouri Public Service Commission  
38 regulations which determine fees for long-distance calls; and

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40           (3) Strongly urge the United States Congress, and especially the Missouri  
41 Congressional delegation to support the efforts made by rural telephone companies in  
42 expanding broadband and digital subscriber line (DSL) communication in rural areas; and

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44           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
45 Representatives be instructed to prepare properly inscribed copies of this resolution for the  
46 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and  
47 each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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